

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04026 051226Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-10 EUR-12 /081 W

----- 026603

O P 051144Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9631

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4026

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: MARCH 5, THE 64TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3941

1. SUMMARY. THE KC SLACKED OFF THEIR ROCKETING OF DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH AND CONCENTRATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON POCHENTONG. THE ATTACKS BEGAN IN FORCE THE MORNING OF MARCH 5 WHEN TWENTH-EIGHT 107MM ROCKETS AND SIX 105MM HOWITZER SHELLS LANDED ON OR NEAR THE AIRFIELD. HOWEVER, THE DAMAGE IS RELATIVELY SLIGHT SINCE MOST OF THE ROUNDS LANDED NORTH OF THE AIRBASE. THE KC CONTINUE TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG, BUT THE OVERALL SITUATION HAS IMPROVED WITH THE RE-OPENING OF ROUTE 15. ELEMENTS OF A BRIGADE IN THE HERETOFORE QUIET SECTOR SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN FORCED FROM SEVERAL POSITIONS. THE KC ARE APPLYING PRESSURE ON ANOTHER POSITION IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC, AFTER THEIR FLURRY OF ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04026 051226Z

DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH, HAVE NOW SWITCHED THEIR FIRE ALMOST

EXCLUSIVELY TO POCHENTONG. LATE MARCH 4, SIX 105MM HOWITZER SHELLS AND FOUR 107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT POCHENTONG, CAUSING LITTLE DAMAGE. EARLY MARCH 5, THE ATTACKS PICKED UP SHARPLY. AN ESTIMATED TWENTY-EIGHT 487MM ROCKETS FELL ON OR NEAR POCHENTONG DURING THE MORNING, AND SIX 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON, THREE ON THE AIRFIELD, THREE OUTSIDE IT. THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THE AIRFIELD AS YET. THE 105MM ROUNDS ARE PROBABLY BEING FIRED FROM THE TUOL LEAP AREA NORTH OF ROUTE 4 AND AN OPERATION IS PLANNED IN THAT AREA TOMORROW. THE KHMER NAVY BASE ALSO TOOK THREE 107MM ROCKETS MARCH 5.

3. THE SITUATION IN THE BANAM-NEAK LUONG AREA HAS IMPROVED WITH THE REOPENING OF ROUTE 15(REFTEL) AS FANK FORCES ATTEMPT TO RESTORE THEIR PERIMETER. THE PRESSURE ON FRIENDLY FORCES ACROSS THE RIVER FROM NEAK LUONG AT THE FERRY CROSSING POINT IS STILL HEAVY DESPITE THE FACT THAT TWO OF THE FOUR POSITIONS INITIALLY LOST HAVE NOW BEEN REPORTED RECOVERED.

4. ELEMENTS OF THE 24TH BRIGADE ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE BASSAC AREA SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN PUSHED OUT OF SEVERAL POSITIONS. THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE THE LOST GROUND.

5. IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, THE KC ATTACKED THE 38TH BRIGADE BASE CAMP ON ROUTE 5 DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 3-4 AND ATTACKED AGAIN THE FOLLOWING NIGHT. THE BRIGADE ITSELF IS IN PHNOM PENH, BUT THE ATTACK ON THE POSITION IS AN APPARENT FOLLOW-UP TO THE KC CAPTURE LAST WEEK OF THE IMPORTANT ROUTE 5 RICE DISTRIBUTION CENTER OF MAUNG RUSSEI.

6. THE THREE BATTALION TASK FORCE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE THE KC CONTROL OF A 25-30 KILOMETER STRETCH OF ROUTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH HAS NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STAY PUT PENDING OTHER ACTIONS AROUND THE CAPITAL'S PERIMETER.

DEAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04026 051226Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM04026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0049
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750380/aaaacugq.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 3941
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 5, THE 64TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006